



Dear Prospective Cohort Member,

Thank you for your interest in *the Vermont Higher Education Collaborative Special Ed. Licensing Program*. The Vermont Higher Education Collaborative (VTHEC) is a partnership between the Department of Education, the University of Vermont, the Vermont State Colleges (i.e., Castleton State College, Johnson State College, and Lyndon State College), and local public schools. The goal of this partnership is to make available the excellent special education teacher training opportunities that currently exist on the campuses of the university and colleges, to people who have limited geographic access to those campuses.

The VTHEC will make this possible through field-based courses in communities around the state of Vermont. Key features of the program include: the use of a cohort model, provision of licensure courses in communities around the state, and the incorporation of a part-time, year-long internship in local school districts.

The program is open to classroom teachers, paraprofessionals with a teaching degree and licensed teachers working outside the classroom. Participants will complete a 24 credit competency-based program of studies as well as (including) a supervised internship. Successful completion of the 8 courses will result in a Vermont State Special Educator Endorsement. If accepted, 18 of the credits earned through the VTHEC can be applied toward a masters' degree in the participating institutions.

Two new cohorts are scheduled to begin in the **Rutland and N.E. regions** of the state in the summer of 2006. If you are interested in the program and/or have any questions about the collaborative, please contact my program assistant, Amy Watson or e-mail amywatson@education.state.vt.us. We look forward to hearing from you to assist you in meeting your needs in planning your graduate work.

Sincerely,

Patty Morgan
Coordinator, Vermont Higher Ed. Collaborative
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